



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

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Fifth District

September 21, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

PRIVATE FOOD VENDORS (ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO – JULY 24, 2009, BOARD MEETING)

On July 14, 2009, your Board directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to work with the Sheriff Department (Sheriff), Fire Department (Fire), and Internal Services Department (ISD) to report back on the following:

- Whether private vendors provide food to County departments for emergency services;
- If so, how often this occurs;
- The authority that allows departments to accept the food.

Use of Private Vendors

The Sheriff and Fire depend on outside vendors to fulfill meal requests during emergency operations that require large volumes with a short turnaround time.

However, Sheriff will order from a vendor only when the department's Food Services Unit cannot fulfill their request due to an extremely short notice or multiple prior commitments. A review of the two previous fiscal years showed Sheriff has used an outside vendor only twice. Sheriff did not use a vendor for meal service during the Station Fire.

Similar to Sheriff, Fire also utilizes internal departmental resources and equipment to prepare food. For each emergency operation, the department establishes mobile kitchens near a safe vicinity of the fire with volunteers and

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camp cooks to prepare the adequate number of meals for Fire staff. However, the location and the number of available staff may affect the ability to prepare and deliver the food demanded during each fire.

When food can not be provided due to logistical or staff issues during emergency operations, Fire will submit a purchase order to ISD for processing. A review of Fire's purchase orders indicates they placed orders during the Sesnon Wildfires of 2008 and the Palos Verdes Fire on August 28, 2009.

Since the Station Fire occurred mostly in Federal and State jurisdictions, Fire did not request meals for the Station Fire. All the logistics of feeding the firefighters was handled by either CAL-FIRE or Federal Fire Services.

Department's Authority to Accept Food

Both Sheriff and Fire are authorized to purchase and accept the food as stated in LACC 5.76.030; *Meals and maintenance furnished by County – conditions:*

- B. "Employees assigned to special duties away from their regular place of employment;
- G. Employees whose assignments or location of work are such that their receiving the above-mentioned benefits would benefit the County;"

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy Chief Executive Officer Brence Culp, Public Safety, at (213) 893-2374.

WTF:SRH:BKC
DC:llm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Sheriff Department
Fire Department
Internal Services Department